

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY OCTOBER 28, 1917.

"FOR YEARS IN GERMANY," BY GERARD

D.C. PUPILS GIVE STUDY OF GERMAN THE GO-BY

Kaiser's Language Likely to
Fall Among Dead Tongues in
Schools Here, Class En-
trances Indicate.

The language of the Kaiser is not finding much favor in Washington high schools these days and if the present rate of decrease prevails, German will soon fall to the level of the dead Greek and Latin tongues. Since the United States entered the war a marked falling off in the study of German has been recorded, consequently there are more French and Spanish students than ever before. The startling decrease in the white high schools are not so prominent in the colored schools. German in holding its own at the colored Dunbar High School, where eleven classes have been organized, the same number as last year. But even this is a loss, claims G. C. Wilkinson, principal of Dunbar, as thirteen classes had been "planned on paper for 1917." Three teachers are engaged teaching German at the Dunbar, two of them devoting their entire day to the subject.

60 Classes Before War.
In 1916 before the United States entered the war there were thirty-seven classes of German in the white high schools and twenty-three classes in the colored high schools. Today, there are twenty-four classes in the white high schools and nineteen classes or approximately 510 students of German in the Washington high schools.

In 1913 Central High School boasted of sixteen classes of German with 450 students. Today the 450 has been reduced to 150. Only 260 students in a school of over 2,200 pupils, are learning to "sprechen sie Deutsch." Before the war, German was the language taught above all others. Now, both French and Spanish have replaced it.

At McKinley Manual Training School there is a loss of three German classes and about 100 pupils. French is now being taken by seven classes, and is expected to soon pass the German class of German, there being eleven full classes studying the trade language.

Spanish in High Schools.
A decided slump in German is noted at both Eastern and Western High Schools. The war brought about a 50 per cent decrease in the study of German at Western, where four classes have been reduced to two, and these are advanced, there being no demand for beginner's German. For its size, Western is the French stronghold, there being six classes in operation. Spanish, with four classes, is also ahead of German.

Eastern High School has suffered the loss of three German classes. Last year's seven classes were reduced to four this year. Only six students applied for beginner's German at the opening of school this year, and as school rules require ten students to make a language class, the six were compelled to study with a more advanced class.

Although Dunbar High School has not lost any German classes, Armstrong Manual Training School, the other colored high school just around the corner, has only eight classes in place of last year's twelve. Of this eight, however, six are freshmen classes just taking up the study of the Teuton tongue. At Armstrong, there are three classes in French, a gain of one class over last year, and two classes in Spanish, a gain of one class over last year.

Not a Commercial Language.
German passed out from Business High School four years ago. This significant fact, is being pointed out by school officials. German is not a commercial language. Spanish pushed German out of the program at Business High, as the one desirable commercial language.

"Spanish is the commercial language and should be taught in business schools," declared Principal Allan Davis, of Business High School.

"This year there was some demand for French, but I believe more from a patriotic rather than a business standpoint," Mr. Davis. Business has four Spanish classes.

Washington school officials believe that the astonishing decrease in the study of German is due directly to the war. Although the French and Spanish lists of eligible teachers are exhausted, several names remain on the German list.

Many high school teachers of German believe that Washington students are doing wrong by neglecting the study. After the war, said some of the teachers, German will be invaluable. One teacher pointed out that the study of German now is as necessary as the study of French, because when the American armies invade Germany they will find a knowledge of the language to great advantage.

A pamphlet just gotten out by the committee on public information, written in German, on "How the War Came to America," has been received by Superintendent of Schools Ernest L. Thurston. The pamphlet may become a German text in the local high school classes.

HOLLWEG WARNED CHANGES COMING IN GOVERNMENT

By JAMES W. GERARD.
American Ambassador to Germany, July 22, 1918, to February 4, 1917.
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Ambassador Gerard, who, during the four years preceding the declaration of war, was in Berlin and its environs, touch with German affairs, has written a vivid story of his experiences. This story The Washington Times will publish in daily installments, of which the following is the forty-third and last. No document of diplomacy was ever more vital or more interesting.

I have already expressed a belief that Germany will not be forced to make peace because of a revolution and that sufficient food will be somehow found to carry on the population during at least another year of war.

What then offers a prospect of reasonable peace—supposing, of course, that the Germans fail in the submarine blockade of England and that the crumbling off of Russia does not release from the east frontier soldiers enough to break the lines of the British and French in France?

I think that it is only by an evolution of Germany herself toward liberalism that the world will be given such guarantees of future peace as will justify the termination of this war.

There is, properly speaking, no great Liberal party in the political arena in Germany. As I have said, the Reichstag is divided roughly into Conservatives, Roman Catholics or Centrum and Social Democrats. The so-called National Liberal party has in this war shown itself a branch of the Conservative party, and on some issues as bitter, as conservative as the Junkers themselves. Herr Bassermann and Herr Stresemann have not shown themselves leaders of liberal thought nor has their leadership been such as to inspire confidence in their political sagacity.

Attacked President Wilson.
It was Stresemann who, on May 30, 1916, said in the Reichstag, referring to President Wilson as a "peace-maker." "We thrust the hand of peace into the hand of the devil." On the day following the day on which the President announced to Congress the breaking of diplomatic relations with Germany, Herr Stresemann on the peaceful Sunday morning was engaged in making a speech to the members of the National Liberal party in which he told them that as a result of his careful study of the American situation, of his careful researches into American character and politics, he could assure them that America would never break with Germany. As he concluded his speech and sat down, amid the applause of his admirers, a German who had been sitting in the back of the room, read from the noon paper, the "B. Z.," a dispatch from Holland giving the news that America had broken relations with Germany. The political skill and foresight of Herr Stresemann may be judged from the above incident.

The Socialists, or Social Democrats, more properly speaking, have shown themselves in opposition to the monarchial form of government in Germany. This has put them politically, militarily, and socially beyond the pale.

At Heart is a Liberal.
Zimmermann, the foreign secretary, although the mental excitement caused by his elevation to the foreign office at a time of stress made him go over to the advocates of ruthless submarine war, lock, stock, and barrel, is nevertheless at heart a liberal, and violently opposed to a system which draws the leaders of the country from only one aristocratic class. Dr. Solf, the imperial colonial minister, while devoted to the Emperor and his family, is a man so reasonable in his views, so indulgent with others, and so indulgent with the luscious dividends that they have received during the peaceful years since 1870, nevertheless feel under their skins the ignominy of living in a country where a class exists by birth, a class not even tactful enough to conceal its ancient contempt for all those who soil their hands by business or trade.

In fact, such a party is a necessity for Germany as a buffer against the extreme Social Democrats.

When Germany's Soldiers March Home.

At the close of the war the soldiers who have fought in the mud of the trenches for three years will most insistently demand a redemptive Reichstag and an abolition of the inadequate class voting of Prussia. And when manhood suffrage comes in Prussia, and when the industrial population of Germany gets that representation in the Reichstag out of which they have been brazenly cheated for so many years, it may well be that a great Liberal party will be the only defense of private property against the assault of an enraged and justly revengeful Social Democracy.

The workmen of Germany have

been fooled for a long time. They constitute that class of which President Lincoln spoke, "You can fool some of the people all of the time," and the middle class of manufacturers, merchants, and so on, have acquiesced in this system because of the profits that they have made.

The difficulty of making peace with Germany as at present constituted is that the whole world feels that peace made with its present government would not be lasting; that such a peace would mean the detachment of some of the allies from the present world alliance against Germany, preparation by Germany, in the light of her needs as disclosed by this war, and the declaration of a new war in which there would be no battle of the Marne to turn back the tide of German world conquest.

Not Great Liberal Party.

There is an impression abroad that the Social Democratic Party of Germany, usually known abroad as the Socialist Party, partakes of at least Liberal party. This is far from being the case. By their acts, if not by their express declarations, they have shown themselves as opposed to the monarchial form of government, and the leaders are charged with having declared themselves openly in favor of free love and against religion.

The Roman Catholic Church recognizes in social democracy its greatest enemy and has made great efforts to counteract the advance of social democracy by fostering a sort of religious body of Socialists.

The Social Democrat in Germany is almost an outcast. Although one-third of the members of the Reichstag belong to this party, its members are never called to hold office in the government, and the attitude of the whole of the governing class—of all professors, school teachers, clergy of both Protestant and Roman Catholic religions, of the prosperous middle classes—is that of violent opposition to the doctrines of Social Democracy. The world must entertain no illusion that the Social Democratic leaders speak for Germany.

Rule From Above Downward.

If the industrial population had their fair share of representation in the Reichstag they might perhaps even control that body. But, as I have time and again reiterated, the Reichstag has only the power of public opinion, and the Germany of today is ruled by officials appointed from above downward. All of these officials in Germany must be added to the other classes that I have mentioned. There are more officials there than in any other country in the world. As they owe their very existence to the government, they must not only serve that government, but make the enemies of that government their own. Therefore, they are the circle of their connections are opponents of the Social Democrats.

All this shows how difficult it is at present for the men of reasonable and liberal views, who do not wish to declare themselves against both religion and morality, to find a political refuge.

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, himself a Liberal at heart, as I have said, declared that there must be changes in Germany. It is perhaps within the bounds of probability that a great new Liberal party will be formed to which I have referred, composed of the more conservative Social Democrats, of the remains of the National Liberal and Progressive parties, and of the more liberal of the Conservatives. The important question, then, is whether the Roman Catholic or Centrum will voluntarily dissolve and its members cease to seek election merely as representatives of the Roman Catholic Church.

Essential Transition is Likely.

I believe that the tendency of German liberalism is toward the easiest transition, that of making the chancellor and his ministers responsible to the Reichstag and bound to resign after a vote of want of confidence by that body. At the time of the Zabern affair Scheidemann asserted that the resignation of the chancellor must logical follow a vote of want of confidence, and it was the chancellor who refused to resign, saying that he was responsible to the Emperor alone. It requires no violent change to bring about this establishment of parliamentary government, and, if members of the Reichstag should be elected from districts fairly constituted, the world would then be dealing with a liberal Germany and a Germany which has become liberalized without any violent change in the form of its government.

Of course, coincident with this parliamentary reform the vicious circle system of voting in Prussia must end.

This change to a government by a responsible ministry can be accomplished under the constitution of the German Empire by a mere majority vote of the Reichstag and a vote in the Bundesrat, in which less than two-thirds of the members are against the proposed change in the constitution. This means that the consent of the Emperor as Prussian King must be obtained, and that of a number of the rulers of the German States.

In the reasonable liberalization of Germany, if it comes, Theodore Wolff and his father-in-law, Mosse, will play leading parts. The great newspaper, the Tagblatt, which Mosse owned and Wolff edits, has throughout the war been a beacon light at once of reason and of patriotism.



The entrance of the United States into the war being read in the Reichstag.

And other great newspapers will take the same enlightened course.

Truly Sorry For Bernhard.

I am truly sorry for Georg Bernhard, the talented editor of the Vossische Zeitung, who, a Liberal and a Jew, wears the liveliest of Junkerdom, I am sure to his great disgust.

After I left Germany the Vossische Zeitung made the most ridiculous charges against me—such as that I issued American passports to British. The newspaper might as well have solemnly charged that I sent notes to the foreign office in sealed envelopes. Having charge of British interests, I could not issue British passports to British citizens allowed to leave Germany, but according to ancient custom in similar cases, I had the support of a loyal and devoted staff of competent secretaries and assistants, and both Secretaries Bryan and Lansing were most kind authorized representatives of America. I left Germany with a clear conscience and the knowledge that I had done everything possible to keep the peace.

An ambassador, of course, does not determine the policy of his own country. One of his principal duties, if not the principal one, is to keep his own country informed as to the moves of the rulers of Germany. I had the support of a loyal and devoted staff of competent secretaries and assistants, and both Secretaries Bryan and Lansing were most kind authorized representatives of America. I left Germany with a clear conscience and the knowledge that I had done everything possible to keep the peace.

The fall of von Bethmann-Hollweg was a triumph of kitchen intrigue and of Junkerism. I believe that a Liberal at heart, that it was against his best judgment that the ruthless submarine war was resumed, the pledges of the Sussex note broken and Germany involved in war with America. If he had resigned rather than consented to the resumption of U-boat war, he would have stood out as a great Liberal rallying point and probably have been returned to a more real power than he ever possessed. But half because of a desire to retain office, half because of a mistaken loyalty to the Emperor, he remained in office at the sacrifice of his opinions and when he laid down that office, no title of prince or even count waited him as a parting gift.

In his retirement he will read the lines of Schiller—a favorite quotation in Germany—"Der Mohr hat seine Schuldigkeit getan, der Mohr kann gehen." "The Moor has done his work, the Moor can go," and in his old age he will exclaim as Shakespeare makes the great Chancellor of Henry the Eighth exclaim: "Oh, Cromwell, Cromwell! Had I served my God with half the zeal that I served my King, he would not in mine age have left me naked to mine enemies." But this god is not the private war god of the Prussians with whom they believe they have a gentleman's working agreement, but the God of Christianity, of humanity, and of all mankind.

Whole World Knows Him.

It would have been easier for Germany to make peace with von Bethmann-Hollweg at the helm. The whole world knows him and honors him for his honesty.

Helfferich remained as vice chancellor and minister of the interior. A powerful, an agile intellect, a man I am sure, opposed to militarism. Reasonable in his views, one can sit at the council table with him and arrive at compromises and results, but his intense patriotism and surprising ability make him an opponent to be feared.

Kuehlmann has the foreign office. Far more likely than Zimmermann, he will continue to strive to embroil us with Japan and Mexico, but he will not be caught. Second in command in London, he replied that England would not enter the war. The rumors, scattered broadcast as he took office, to the effect that he was opposed to ruthless U-boat war, were but evidences of a more skillful hand in a campaign to predispose the world in his favor, and, therefore, to assist him in any negotiations he might have on the carpet. Beware of the smiling chancellor! He is the favorite sport of German political life. No sooner does the Kaiser name a chancellor than hundreds of little politicians, Reichstag members, editors, reporters, and female intriguers try to drive him from office. When von Bethmann-Hollweg showed an inclination toward liberalism and advocated a just electoral system for Prussia, the Junkers, the military, and the upholders of the caste system, joined their forces to those of the usual intriguers, and it was only a question of time until the chancellor's official head fell in the basket.

An Unfair Reputation.

Our American national game, poker, has given us abroad an unfair reputation. We are always supposed to be bluffing. A book was published in Germany about the President, called "President Bluff."

I only regret that those high in authority in Germany should have preferred to listen to pro-German correspondents who posed as amateur super-ambassadors, rather than to the

LIBERALISM BY EVOLUTION ONLY GERMAN HOPE

In the backing given by their very ably organized department. I sent Secretary Lansing a confidential letter every week, and, of course, received most valuable hints from him. Secretary Lansing was very successful in his tactful handling of the American ambassadors abroad and in getting them to work together as cheerful members of the same team.

Shock on Returning to America.

When I returned to America after living for two and one-half years in the center of this world calamity—everything seemed petty and small. I was surprised that people could still seek little advantages, still be actuated by little jealousies and revenge. Freed from the round of daily work, I felt for the first time the utter helplessness and weakness of all the misery these Prussian military autocrats had brought upon the world, and what a reckoning there will be in Germany some day when the plain people realize the truth: when they learn what base motives actuated their rulers in condemning a whole generation of the earth to war and death!

Is it not a shame that the world should have been so disturbed; that peaceful men are compelled to lie out in the mud and die in the depths of raw winter, shot at and stormed at, and shelled, waiting for a change to murder some other inefficient fellow creature? Why must the people in old Poland die of hunger, not finding dogs enough to eat in the streets of Lemberg? The long lines of broken peasants in Serbia and in Roumania, the population of Belgium and northern France torn from their homes to work as slaves for the Germans; the poor prisoners of war starving in their huts or working in fac-

tories and mines; the cries of the old and the children, wounded by bombs from Zeppelins; the walls of the woods are for their sons; the very rustling of the air as the souls of the ten million dead sweep to another world—why must all these horrors come upon a fair green earth where we believed that love and help and friendship, genius and science and commerce and religion and civilization once ruled?

Would Reach Across Nations.

The very bodies of those ten millions killed, if placed end to end in two lines, would reach from New York to San Francisco. Think of traveling this distance between a double line of staring corpses! It is because in the dark, cold northern plains of Germany there exists an autocracy, deceiving a great people, poisoning their minds from one generation to another and preaching the virtue and necessity of war. And until that autocracy is either wiped out or made powerless there can be no peace on earth.

I have always stated that Germany is possessed yet of immense military power, and in order to win the nations opposed to Germany must learn to think in a military way. The mere entrance even of a great nation like our own into the war means nothing in a military way unless backed by military power.

And there must be no German peace. The old regime left in control of Germany, of Bulgaria, of Turkey, would only seek a favorable moment to renew the war, to strive again for the mastery of the world.

Fortunately America bars the way. America led by a fighting President who will allow no compromise with brutal autocracy.

(The End.)

REPUBLICANS IN GERMANY SOW SEEDS OF FREEDOM

Would Overthrow Autocracy—
Warn Fellow Countrymen
Prussian War Lords Are
Striving for 'Humbug Peace.'

German Republicans are sowing the seeds of democracy to overthrow the Kaiser's autocracy. They have informed the German people how the Prussian war lords are striving for a "humbug peace" while still holding to their mania for world rule.

President Wilson's approval was given to the efforts of the Republicans last night when the Crel committee made public a propaganda article German Republicans in Switzerland are using to unsettle Hohenzollernism and establish a republic. The article, in effect, is also another note from President Wilson to the German people, amplifying his ideas on peace.

The pamphlet, headed "Foes of a New Humbug," is a bitter attack on the German ruling classes, an exposure of their insincere peace overtures, and a clear statement of the allies' case against a "traitor peace," dictated by the German military.

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